

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING READING PASSAGES

The introduction to the Kentucky Core Content for Reading Assessment includes the following statement: "The state reading assessment, which includes a variety of reading materials from different cultures and time periods, focuses on those skills and strategies most critical for students to become good readers." Please refer to the Core Content for the specific skills and strategies to be assessed at each grade.

Literary Reading includes whole texts and excerpts from materials such as short stories, novels, essays, poetry, plays, and scripts (Core Content). The reading materials represent various historical and cultural perspectives.

Informational Reading includes whole texts and excerpts from materials such as journals, magazines, newspaper articles, letters, brochures, reference materials, essays, nonfiction books, and electronic texts (Core Content). Distinguishing this type of passage from persuasive or practical/workplace passages can be difficult because many types of writing include some information. If the author attempts to convince the audience to believe a certain way or to take some action, then the text is persuasive in addition to being informative. If the author provides information that can be used to accomplish basic life skills, the text is practical in addition to being informative. For the informational reading passages we are looking for purely informational texts.

Persuasive Reading includes whole texts and excerpts from materials such as magazine and newspaper articles, brochures, letters, proposals, speeches, editorials, electronic texts, essays, opinion columns, and advertisements (Core Content). In a persuasive text, the author attempts to convince the reader to believe a certain way or to take some action.

Practical/Workplace Reading includes whole texts and excerpts from materials such as articles, letters, memos, brochures, electronic texts, warranties, forms, memoranda, consumer texts, manuals, schedules, and directions (Core Content). This is reading students will do in the real world. This reading allows students to accomplish basic life skills like catching a city a bus, assembling a piece of furniture, or passing a driver's test.

Passage Length Specifications

In order to provide a balance of passage length and to ensure reasonable reading times for students during the live test administration, KDE has requested that passage length be considered in the selection process. The table below provides rough guidelines for desired passage lengths.

	Desired Passage Length in Number of Words		
	Short	Medium	Long
Grade 4	500	600-900	1000-1100
Grade 7	500-600	700-1000	1100-1500
Grade 10	600	700-1300	2000